

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01939 092057Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 HEW-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /074 W

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R 092030Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9949

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS, ELAP, BL

SUBJ: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHER PAY RAISE

REF: LA PAZ 1444

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOB AND NATIONAL COORDINATORS OF THE RURAL AND URBAN SCHOOL TEACHERS ENDED MARCH 5 WITH PAY RAISE OF 33 PERCENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY WORKLOAD OF THE TEACHERS. MONTHLY SALARIES WILL INCREASE BY ABOUT SIXTEEN TO THIRTY-THREE DOLLARS PER MONTH (DEPENDING ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S CATEGORY). MONTHLY SALARIES PREVIOUSLY RANGED FROM AROUND EIGHTY TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS PER MONTH, CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN MOST WHITE COLLAR WORKERS AND THE BETTER PAID INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATORS FOR THE URBAN TEACHERS UNION, THE LAST TEACHER'S RAISE WAS IN 1973 WHEN WAGES WERE INCREASED BY TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT. HOWEVER, THE TEACHERS UNIONS

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 01939 092057Z

HAD CALCULATED THAT THE COST OF LIVING INCREASES

BEFORE THIS CHANGE ALREADY HAD REACHED ABOUT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PERCENT. TEACHERS DID NOT RECEIVE WAGE INCREASES IN 1974 WHEN MANY SECTORS OF ORGANIZED LABOR GAINED 15 TO 20 PERCENT INCREASES. THE SAME SOURCE DID NOT NOW ANTICIPATE A NATIONAL STRIKE ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS IN SOME AREAS SUCH AS COCHABAMBA.

3. COMMENT: THE GOB DECISION AVERTED WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NATIONAL STRIKE BY OVER 57,000 TEACHERS. DESPITE THE GOB EMPHASIS THAT EHRE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO RAISE BUT RATHER AN AGREEMENT FOR MORE PAY FOR MORE WORK, NEVERTHELESS THIS WILL INCREASE THE PRESSURES FROM OTHER LABOR SECTORS FOR UPWARD ADJUSTMENTS IN WAGES OR BENEFITS. THE WAGE INCREASE IS GREATER THAN THE 21 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S BUDGET IN 1976, 95 PERCENT OF WHICH IS FOR SALARIES. IF THE GOB IS FORCED TO GRANT WAGE INCREASES TO OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES, IT MAY HAVE BOUGHT LABOR PEACE AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO MAINTAIN A WAGE FREEZE THROUGHOUT 1976 AND TO HOLD INFLATION FOR THE YEAR TO 12 PERCENT. END COMMENT.  
STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Concepts:** WAGES, LABOR DISPUTES, TEACHERS, COST OF LIVING WAGE ADJUSTMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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